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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/540,239	03/31/2000	Rick Dedrick	042390.P7956	1914

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EXAMINER

CUFF, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/540,239	Applicant(s) Dedrick et al.	Examiner Michael Cuff	Art Unit 3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jul 17, 2000

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 7 recite six method steps. The first two steps reference the term “client” which has several definitions per the specification. In the step “receiving a list of goods available... to the client;”, it is unclear who the “client” is because a “manager-client” could see a different list from a “user-client”. The next four steps don’t recite which “client” or even who is performing the steps. The last two steps appear to have to be “manager-clients” but it is unclear if all the un-stated steps are done solely by the “manager-clients”. Claims 13 and 17 have a similar unclarity as explained above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt et al.

Schmidt et al. shows all of the limitations of the claims except for specifying selecting goods and the use of a "public key".

Schmidt et al. shows, figures 1 and 6, a system for controlling users access to a distributive network. A local access network or LAN 10 includes a plurality of workstation PCS 12 (connecting from client), a network server 14 such as, by way of example a Novell server, and a distributive network access interface or box 16 such as, by way of example an Instant Internet access system. The network access interface box 16 permits each PC on the LAN to connect to a distributive network 18, such as, by way of example the Internet. In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the software for managing the administration system is installed in the server 14 (distribution server). This stores the information defining each individual user and the groups available for user assignment. The group constraints (access privileges constrained according to client identifier) may be customized on site and on demand, with users (user-client) being capable of being assigned to any of one or more groups at any time by the authorized administrator (manager-client). All of this information is stored and manipulated at the server location (stored on the online distribution server), minimizing the use of access box memory capacity. As shown by the information flow arrows in FIG. 1, a typical user "logs on" to the network 10 in the well known manner by entering his I.D. (client identifier) or password to the server 14 from any one

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of the plurality of PCS 12 on the LAN network, as indicated by the arrow 19. The server 14 then grants LAN access by properly identifying and authenticating the user, as indicated by the double arrow 20. The server also identifies what group the user is assigned to, as indicated by the arrow 21. An administrator can specify levels of access to the network for each group or user by controlling the specific IP Addresses and Port Numbers (received list of services) for each user and/or user group. This is done by activating the screen depicted in FIG. 6, by clicking on the "Internet Access" box 86 of FIG. 4. Figure 6 shows the steps of adding selected IP addresses (services) to screen list 70 (shopping cart). Still in figure 6, the example shows the modification of assigning access restrictions for the "ADMIN" group (example of a distribution package). The creation of a group based on need is an inherent feature.

Misra et al. teaches a system and method for software licensing where "the license generator digitally signs the license pack and encrypts it with the license server's public key in order to provide a secure transfer of information between the generator and the server.

Based on the teaching of Misra et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify Schmidt et al. system such that the administrator's access privileges lists are signed with a public key of the server 14 in order to provide a secure transfer of information between the administrator and the server.

The Schmidt et al. reference selects web site services. The specifying of individual items or goods available on the selected web site services is just an obvious next more detailed step provided in order to allow access to sites with some desirable parts and some undesirable parts.

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For example, with the Schmidt et al. invention, an employer may not allow access to magazines on the Internet. If given enough interest, it would be obvious further to allow access to business weekly magazine (a specific good), but not a pornographic magazine. As far as the limitation of being available electronically or available through physical shipping, the Internet access described in Schmidt covers these options.

Based on the above discussion, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify Schmidt et al. system such that access to specific goods on the Internet could be selected in order to allow access to sites with some desirable parts and some undesirable parts.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Gebauer, Sandren et al., and Win et al. show limited access systems of interest. Henson shows an on-line store with an electronic shopping cart of interest.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Michael Cuff at telephone number (703) 308-0610. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9326. (After Final special fax number (703) 872-9327) The customer service number is (703) 872-9325.

Michael Cuff 9/25/02
Michael Cuff
September 25, 2002